

Equal Justice Under the Law

October 2013

Judicial Branch News

New Judicial Officers



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Cover - Superior Court Judge Jay Adleman (left) is sworn-in by Arizona Supreme Court Vice Chief Justice Scott Bales at his investiture ceremony in Phoenix.

Judicial Branch News

The Judicial Branch News is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations Department. The newsletter is also available on the Court's Intranet site at: <http://courts.maricopa.gov/publicInfo/newsLetter/index.asp>

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

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Two Commissioners Selected as Judges



Kathleen Mead

The Governor selected former Commissioners Kathleen Mead and Rodrick Coffey as Maricopa County Superior Court judges.

Judge Mead, who is assigned to Family Court, was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Helene F. Abrams.

She was appointed as a Court Commissioner for the Maricopa County Superior Court in 2003. In this role, she handled initial criminal appearances and felony matters including: preliminary hearings, bond review and restitution hearings, and she adjudicated as many as 60 sentences per week. She also was an integral part of the team that launched the Maricopa County Search Warrant Center, a centralized court that reviews and issues search warrants for law enforcement.



Rodrick Coffey

Prior to becoming a Court Commissioner, Judge Mead was a sole practitioner (1994-2003); worked for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (1993 - 94); served as a Clerk for the Arizona Court of Appeals (1988 - 93); was a paralegal with the firm of Beer & Toone (1984 - 88) and a legal secretary with Warner Angle (1983 - 84). Prior to entering the legal profession, she was employed with Long Building Technologies in Colorado (1981 - 83); Rapid City Area Schools and Rapid City West Hospitals in South Dakota (1980 - 81).

Judge Mead currently volunteers for the Red Cross as part of the Southwest Valley Disaster Action Team, and has been active in the Juvenile Drug Court Program. She graduated from Arizona State University College of Law (1988); earned a paralegal certificate from the Denver Paralegal Institute (1983); and received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from South Dakota State University (1980, cum laude).

The Governor selected Rodrick "Rod" Coffey to replace retired Judge Glenn M. Davis.

Since 2011, Judge Coffey, who is assigned to the Probate Division, served as a Maricopa County Court Commissioner. From 2006 to 2011, he also served as a Judge Pro Tempore.

Prior to becoming a court commissioner, Judge Coffey's law practice was primarily focused on commercial and real estate litigation at the trial and appellate court levels in Arizona and federal courts. He also has handled bankruptcy cases. He practiced with the law firms Stinson Morrison Hecker (1999- April 2001, Aug. 2001 - 11) and Bryan Cave (May - July 2001).

Judge Coffey was a member of the Thurgood Marshall Inn of Court (2005 - 10) and has judged mock trial competitions through Arizona State University and Phoenix School of Law. He also has coached youth basketball teams, interviewed high school students applying to Vanderbilt University and educated youth in his community about the judicial system. Judge Coffey is active in his church, where he has taught Sunday school and served as a youth leader.

Judge Coffey graduated Order of the Coif from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University (1999). He received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Vanderbilt University (1996, cum laude). He also has the distinction of receiving the highest score on the July 1999 Bar Exam.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Patricia Starr, Court Commissioner
Beau Diveley, Judicial Clerk Senior
Guadalupe Arebalo, Judicial Clerk Associate
Tasha Terrell, Presentence Screener
Sheila Cea, Judicial Clerk Associate

10 Years

Randy Bay, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Heather Garcia, Adult Probation Officer
Jesse Ginsberg, Adult Probation Officer
Lane Gunderson, Adult Probation Officer
Susan Haney, Adult Probation Officer
David Laing, Adult Probation Officer
Delma Navarro, Adult Probation Officer
Heather Peckham, Adult Probation Officer
Geneva Rodriguez, Surveillance Officer
Lisa Roubicek, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Valarie Serrano, Adult Probation Officer
Richard Temby, Adult Probation Officer
Eric Ward, Adult Probation Officer
Donna Northam, Law Library Assistant
Steven Ashley, Judicial Clerk Lead
Nancy Jeffery, Procurement Specialist
Rene Bates, Administrative Assistant
Sandra Townsend, Administrative Assistant

15 Years

Tonja Lee, Juvenile Detention Officer
Gina Sanchez, Judicial Clerk Associate
Terrie Clark-Dedecker, Judicial Specialist
Shirley Villabrille, Procurement Supervisor
Dorothy Davis, Judicial Clerk Senior
Robert Oberbillig, Superior Court Judge

20 Years

Tonya Hunt, Juvenile Detention Officer
Shanon Brown, Juvenile Probation Officer

25 Years

Alfred Fenzel, Superior Court Judge
Randy Blakesley, Juvenile Probation Officer
Lorene Ayala, Judicial Clerk Associate
Holly Burdine, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor
Brett Whitney, Adult Probation Officer

35 Years

Pete Anderson, Finance Manager

40 Years

Gale Barclay, Judicial Clerk

** Information provided by Debbie Gilliland in the Human Resources Department.*

Flu Season 2013 Begins in Arizona

The Arizona Department of Health Services and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health confirmed the first flu case of the season; an unvaccinated child with influenza type B who was never hospitalized.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 6 months and older get the flu vaccine. This year a newly-available vaccine will protect against four different flu viruses; two A strains (an H3N2 and H1N1 strain) and two B strains. Most available vaccines will only protect against three strains (Only one B strain).

"Remember, getting your flu shot is as much about community protection as it is about personal protection," said Will Humble, director of the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Preparation includes getting the flu vaccine and being vigilant about good hygiene -- covering our cough in our sleeves, washing our hands frequently and staying home when we are sick. For more information about the flu and its symptoms or where to find a flu vaccine in Arizona, please visit StopTheSpreadAZ.org.

Flu Shot Clinics Offered at Work Locations in October

Employees and their adult dependents (18 years +) enrolled in a County-sponsored medical plan can get a FREE flu shot at a County-sponsored on-site flu shot clinic during the month of October.

Flu Shot Schedule: http://www.maricopa.gov/benefits/wellness/pdf/2013_flushotschedule.pdf

Schedule a Flu Shot Appointment: <https://appointment.walgreens.com/landingpage.aspx?dstid=w201>

Consent Form: www.maricopa.gov/benefits/wellness/pdf/consentform_flu_2013.pdf

The consent form may be filled out in advance to save time. Remember to bring your Cigna medical ID card with you to your appointment.

Flu shots are also being given at the Walgreens Take Care Clinic located at 301 W. Jefferson, Suite 201; Monday - Friday between 7:30 am - 1:00 pm, and 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm.

By Mikisha Steel, Human Resources

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Q & A with Judge Jay Adleman

Q. What has surprised you the most about making the transition from a Commissioner to a Superior Court Judge? Please explain.

Not much has really surprised me. All of the other judicial officers and court staff have been wonderful to work with in my time as both a commissioner and a judge. It has been an outstanding experience.

Q. What were you doing when you were notified of your appointment to the Bench? Please describe the moment.

I was working at my desk when I received the phone call. It was very exciting. My heart was pounding ... it was a rush of emotions, that's for sure.

Q. What's your favorite quote?

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Q. If you had a day to spend with anyone (living or dead, real or fictional), who would it be and what would you do?

If I had the chance, I would play a round of golf with Winston Churchill, John Lennon, and Charles Barkley. That would be quite a foursome indeed. I might even manage to win.

Q. Do you own an iPod (iPhone)? If so, what songs are in your playlist?

My music selection(s) are embarrassing, due to the fact that most of my music is intended for the ears of my one year-old son.

Judge Jay Adleman Investiture Ceremony



Maricopa County Bar Association President David E. Funkhouser (right) presents Superior Court Judge Jay Adleman (left) a ceremonial gavel at his investiture ceremony in Phoenix.

Court Appoints Two New Commissioners

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed David Seyer and Michael Mandell to be Superior Court Commissioners.

"Both are extremely well-qualified with many years of experience in the practice of law, and are a welcome addition to our bench," Judge Davis said.

For the last 20 years, Commissioner Seyer has gained valuable experience in the private sector, practicing primarily civil and criminal law. Also, he served as a judge pro tempore in various courts, including Initial Appearance Court as an on-call commissioner.

During the last 15 years, Commissioner Mandell, who has worked with the law firm of Burch & Cracchiolo, has practiced extensively in the areas of commercial transactions and litigation, governmental relations, campaign finance and election law. He has also served as General Counsel at the Arizona Senate.

Commissioner Swearing-in Ceremony

On October 22, Superior Court celebrated the appointments of Commissioners Justin Beresky, Utiki Spurling Laing, Kerstin G. Lemaire, Julie Ann Mata and Annielaurie Van Wie with a swearing in ceremony held in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

Presiding Judge Norman Davis delivered the Oath of Office.



Utiki Spurling Laing



Justin Beresky



Annielaurie Van Wie



Kerstin G. Lemaire



Julie Ann Mata

Phoenix New Times Best of Award 2013: Public Information Officers

Karen Arra, Vincent Funari, and Kelly Vail, Maricopa County Superior Court

For the second consecutive year, the public information officers at Superior Court were named the best PIOs for 2013 by the Phoenix New Times. Read the New Times write-up below:

On an average weekday, Karen, Vincent, and Kelly are regular Johnnys-on-the-spot, obtaining court documents for us and answering just about any silly question about the forced parade of accused killers, rapists, child torturers, thieves, and gangstas moving through the court system.

But the trio really shone during the epic Jodi Arias murder trial, which ran all the way from January 2 to May 23. With news media from all over the world calling or appearing in person to cover the sensational trial, and dozens of trial watchers jostling for seats in the courtroom each day, Arra, Funari, and Vail faced the court PIO version of American Ninja Warrior, and we'd argue they all hit the buzzer at the top. These three, unlike some government PIOs, more than earn our taxpayer dollars. We'll see them again soon, when the Arias trial continues with the redo of the death-penalty sentencing phase.



Three New Interpreters Sworn-in



Criminal Presiding Judge Joseph Welty (center) recently swore-in three court interpreters. Left to right - Joseph McCleary, Judge Welty, Jennifer Clowery and Chelsey Dipasquale-Hunton.

Juvenile Probation to Help Disconnected Youth

According to a recent study, metropolitan Phoenix has the highest rate of disconnected youth in the country. Youth that are not involved in school or work are much more likely to become involved in the juvenile and adult justice systems. The Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA) has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to reverse this trend by reconnecting youth to their families and their communities, and by providing support to build the case management and evidence-based practice capacity of youth-serving agencies throughout Maricopa County.

MCESA, partnering with the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department, and the Maricopa County Human Services Department have developed a shared mission and vision for this initiative titled "Building Futures: A Second Act".

Eric Meaux, Chief of Juvenile Probation states, "This award acknowledges that our commitment to build better and more efficient systems of care through multi-agency collaboration is a sound investment, will improve service continuity, and will reduce the number of youth that re-enter the justice system."

Juvenile Detention Officer of the Year: LaTeshia Jackson

Juvenile Detention Officer LaTeshia Jackson was honored at the Arizona Chief Probation Officers Association Statewide Recognition Banquet as The Statewide Detention Officer of the Year.

Jackson started her career with the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department as a juvenile detention officer in 2005, and was assigned to the Durango Detention Facility. Since then, she has worked almost every assignment within the facility and participated on committees including the Character Counts Committee; facilitated detention wide programming, i.e. Durango Detention Talent Show, Poetry Slam, Black History month productions and door contests. She has also taken time out from her busy schedule to speak at the “Maricopa County Court Teen Summit Conference for Youth.”

Jackson currently works on the Orientation Unit for new male youth coming into Durango Detention. She is very strategic in assigning youth to living units to minimize conflicts.

Jackson is especially great working with youth who pose serious behavioral, emotional or mental health challenges. She is able to make a connection and build rapport with troubled youth.

As a result of her experience in multiple areas, Jackson is often called upon to assist with tasks and resolve issues in different areas during her shift. Even when she is busy, she still finds time and ways to assist and mentor other staff.

By Eric Meaux, Juvenile Probation Chief



Left to right: Juvenile Probation Chief Eric Meaux, Juvenile Detention Officer LaTeshia Jackson and Presiding Juvenile Judge Colleen McNally

Maricopa County Unveils Cyber-security Website

Maricopa County has decided to refashion its cyber-security website to help local citizens, employees and businesses protect themselves against the increasing volume and sophistication of electronic attacks.

The county launched an improved website, www.maricopa.gov/technology/security, aimed at increasing public awareness and resources to combat incidents, including hacking, scams, ransom attempts and other attacks.

“Just as we plan for emergencies like floods, epidemics and natural disasters, counties must be able to prepare and manage cyber attacks,” Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox commented. Wilcox, who is a member of the cyber security committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo), said the website is designed to alert residents of the dangers and to educate them how to avoid trouble.

“We want this website to be constantly evolving and improving, just as the threats change over time. Our new website pulls together some great information, videos, instructional tools and helpful hints and makes them more accessible to many people,” Wilcox said. “I’m very proud of what our Office of Enterprise Technology has put together.”

The new website is an upgrade to the current county cyber-security website and part of NACo’s national initiative on cyber-security, according to David Stevens, chief information officer for the county.

Wilcox said the attacks come not only from politically-motivated hackers, but from sophisticated criminals who steal personal and financial data and stay under the radar until organizations and individuals suffer great losses. “When I learn more about these emerging crimes, I make my personal passwords stronger and stronger,” Wilcox said. “This is serious business and we have to take the threats very seriously.”

It takes a special person to work for Maricopa County for 40 years . It takes a special person to work many of those years directly serving the public in the Superior Court. Gale Barclay is that special person although she would humbly deny it if you told her. Gale is reliable. She keeps our team on track. She cares for our patrons as delicately as she tends to all our green plants. The Public Access to Court Services team wanted to take a moment to highlight Gale and her time with the Court. So we asked her to answer a few questions for the Judicial Branch because we think 40 years is something deserving of recognition. Congratulations Gale!

What was your first job with the Court/County?

County Assessor's. I worked in the drafting department doing parcel (land) splits. If a road was built or someone was granted an easement, then the county maps had to be revised. If an owner sold a portion of a parcel, it called for a map revision.

What departments have you worked in prior to working in the SSC/POC?

Assessor's, data processing, medical equipment repair as a clerk for the technicians who repaired hospital equipment, probate and civil court administrations. That is not many departments for a 40 year career. I tend to remain in one area for a long time.

What has been your favorite position?

That would have been the clerk at the hospital. With a group of guys there was always some practical joke nearly every day.

Has any position had an exceptional impact on you?

I reviewed adult guardian/conservator cases while in probate. I was saddened by how many adults had no one to monitor their affairs if they were elderly or suffered a mental condition. The Public Fiduciary had hundreds of cases (probably thousands now) of these individuals.

What position was most rewarding?

The Self Service Center was rewarding the first couple of years, because patrons were truly appreciative and grateful for what we provided. We were the first in the nation to offer these services. As the years progressed, I noticed a steady decline in customers' appreciation and their overall attitude toward staff.

What has been your most favorite department and type of work and why?

Without a question---probate. At that time, case files were reviewed manually by actually pulling the hard copy of a file and paging through the documents looking for certain markers to see if a case was current. Nothing was computerized. Once the case status was determined, I had to set it for a hearing, have a commissioner review it, or take other measures. One case worthy of mention was an ancillary probate of the Hollywood silent film star Mary Pickford, opened here because she owned real estate in Phoenix. (Those of you not familiar with the name, check the Internet). In her Last Will and Testament, she willed her sword collection with inlaid rubies, diamonds and emeralds to Rudolph Valentino, another silent film star. There were other cases with child actors who made films here, earning extraordinary salaries. These monies were placed in restricted bank accounts for them until they became adults. Some of these files had contracts showing the earnings. They all had to be reviewed. Fascinating stuff!

What are the most significant changes you have seen over the years?

The downtown landscape. There was no Central Court Building. The West Court site was the Administration building. Second Avenue intersected Jefferson from the north where the park is currently. There was a laundry just south of the court complex. J.C. Penney, Switzer's (a women's clothing store) and Wilson Camera, that even sold telescopes, were close by. Amtrak used to stop at the railroad depot on Harrison Street and Fourth Avenue and one could hear the train whistle. That stopped in 1996. There was no arena or stadium for sporting events. Many other landmarks have come and gone too numerous to mention.

What college did you attend? What is your degree?

Arizona State University, B.A. in Education.

What is your proudest achievement (personally and or professionally)?

Paying off my home mortgage several years earlier than the due date.

What are your hobbies?

Reading, hiking and swimming ,but those are more activities rather than hobbies.

If you could be anywhere in the world right now, where would that be?

Iceland. The topography and rock formations are beautiful. If you get cold you can jump into a hot spring.

What would people be surprised to know about you? 1. I was an ice skater on the amateur level 2. I am a direct descendant of the musician Johann Sebastian Bach (maternal side). Unfortunately, I have no musical ability, whatsoever. It got lost in the gene pool.